



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 12, 1999

S. 380

A bill to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on March 4, 1999

S. 380 would reauthorize the Congressional Award Act for fiscal years 2000 through 2004. CBO estimates that implementing S. 380 would cost less than \$500,000 a year in appropriated funds. In addition, by requiring the U.S. Mint to design and strike medals at the request of the Congressional Award Board, S. 380 would increase direct spending by less than \$500,000 a year. Consequently, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill. S. 380 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The Congressional Award Program recognizes excellence in public service and personal development among young people. The program is overseen by the Congressional Award Board, a nonprofit organization that receives no federal funding. Under S. 380, the board could continue to receive in-kind services from the federal government. These services include free office space in the Ford House Office Building, including maintenance and utilities, and the performance of an annual audit by the General Accounting Office. CBO estimates that the board's continued use of such services would cost less than \$500,000 a year in appropriated funds.

The young people recognized by the Congressional Award Program are awarded medals produced by the U.S. Mint. The Mint finances the cost of these medals through its public enterprise fund, a mandatory account. Based on information from the board and the Mint, CBO estimates that reauthorizing the program would increase direct spending by less than \$500,000 in each of fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.